

controlled by temperature and they are rapid feeders. If the season is advanced, many other species will be missed unless looked for in good time (EMMET).

In late June, beat hedgerow spindle bushes for larvae of the local *Ypsolopha mucronella* Scop. This species is by far the largest of the genus *Ypsolopha*, but its larvae in common with others in the genus, will wriggle violently if disturbed on the beating tray, and will quickly disappear over the edge if not tubed. The best way to betray their presence on the tray is to blow on the plant debris whilst at the same time keeping a sharp eye out for any movement. The larvae are best caught by positioning an empty tube in their path as they wriggle, and they will enter this without the need for any further manipulation. Larvae of the Scorched Carpet (*Ligdia adustata* D. & S.), will probably be beaten out at the same time (WATKINSON).

OBITUARY

Brisbane Charles Somerville Warren (1887-1979)

With the passing of B. C. S. Warren on the 22nd January 1979 at the great age of 91, the world of entomology and in particular that of lepidopterists, has lost one of its most eminent personalities who, though one of the older generation was a real *savant* in every sense. His name will always be linked with that large genus of mountain-loving butterflies, the *Erebias*.

Born at Fermoy in Ireland on the 29th March 1887, he left that country for England in 1894 soon after the death of his father, the Dean of Cork. He was educated at St. Paul's School, and in 1901 at the age of 14, visited Freiburg. He tells how his love of opera brought him into contact with one of its leading baritones, a Herr Junior who was a keen butterfly collector and used to take him on trips into the Black Forest. It was there that the first sparks were kindled for his lifelong interest in, and study of, these insects. During the first twelve years of this century, he divided his time between England and Germany, and in 1912 went to live in Switzerland, returning to this country in 1919. After his marriage in 1922, Warren went to reside at Lausanne where he remained till 1934 when he returned to live permanently at Folkestone, except for five years during the second world war. It was during his residence in the Swiss Alps, that he built up a very extensive collection covering a wide field both in Europe and Asia, though he himself did not cast his net outside Europe. He travelled almost annually till the late 1950s to some rewarding locality, chiefly in his beloved Alps, but Corsica and the Pyrenees were also among his favourite haunts. This fine accumulation of specimens, all meticulously labelled, has now been housed as part of the National Collection at South Kensington, a most valuable and generous addition under his will.

He became a fellow of the (then) Entomological Society of London as far back as 1908 and may well have been its father at the time of his death, and it was to the Transactions

of that society that he contributed some of his most important papers. In *Nota Lepidopterologica* for 1978, is published a complete list of 112 notes and larger contributions, starting in 1910 with a paper in *The Entomologist's Record* entitled "Some Butterflies of the Black Forest and Rhine Plain". He also wrote in foreign journals, but it is probable that he published more in *The Record* than in any other journal.

It was in 1926 that his first major work appeared in the Transactions of the Entomological Society of London. This was a Monograph on the Hesperidae (Skippers), mainly the Palaearctic series, and was inspired by an article by Reverdin in 1912 on the same group of insects. It consisted of 160 pages with many fine photographs of the perfect insects, but also of their genitalia which was then quite a novel approach. The excellence of this large paper at once won Warren international repute. But it was ten years later, in 1936, that appeared the large book comprising over 400 pages, *The Monograph on the genus Erebia*, which he compiled while living in Lausanne and was sponsored by the British Museum (Nat. Hist.). In this, he tells how indebted he was for much valuable help and advice from Prof. Reverdin of Geneva, and from Dr. Stracey of Diemtigen. Again the text and superb photography were carried out in the same meticulous and scholarly manner which characterised all his research. Though much more has been learnt about the *Erebias* in the last forty years, this great work is still a classic and brought him further renown as well as a lasting memorial to his name as one of the great entomologists of this century.

In 1944, he turned his attention to the smaller fritillaries with another most erudite treatise on the genus *Boloria*, again in the Transactions of the Royal Entomological Society, with a second part on some of the Asiatic representatives which appeared in 1955. During the subsequent 15 years he was mainly engaged on the study of the androconial scales, chiefly among the Pierids. In 1961, he published in a Norwegian journal, a paper on *Pieris napi* in Scandinavia when he erected a new species *Pieris adalwinda*. Some of his conclusions in this field were somewhat controversial and possibly not generally accepted, but nevertheless he laid the foundations for much more research. He never fell in with or took kindly to some modern methods of separating species, such as on their respective chromosome numbers. In spite of failing health and a partial amputation of his left leg in the 1960's, he carried on his research indefatigably and with the same attention to detail, especially in his photographic work, and only gave this up in 1971 with a final note on *Pieris pseudorapa* Verity.

Handsome, tall, of upstanding stature and of distinguished appearance, Warren was of most genial and kindly disposition always ready to receive and help those equally keen on the lepidoptera of Europe and the British Isles. A very fine figure has been taken from us and he will indeed be missed. All sympathy goes out to his widow and daughter.—C. G. M. DE W.